

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-13 and 15-16 are active in this case.

Claim 10 has been amended for clarity.

No new matter is believed to be added by these amendments.

Applicants thank the Examiner for allowing Claims 1-9, 13 and 16 and for indicating that Claims 10-12 and 15 would also be allowable. To address the issues raised in the rejection under 112, 2nd paragraph, Claim 10 has been amended. Notably, the “desired” is the ratio of SiO₂ and TiO₂ to obtain to result in the powder composition of Claim 1 (claim 10 is dependent on claim 1 and states a range of silicon dioxide). Therefore, one would understand that the ratio or desired ratio can vary depending on the amounts of these two oxides mixed in the method resulting in the final product and as such the claims set out and circumscribe a particular subject matter with a reasonable degree of clarity and particularity with respect to this term.

The “product” noted in lines 6-7, has been changed to “powder.”

To clarify the presence of secondary air, Claim 10 has been amended to include “additional secondary air” so as to make it clear that air, in addition to the air added in the preceding step of the process is added when the reaction mixture is ignited.

The claim has been amended so as to provide proper antecedent basis for “the gaseous reaction products.”

The claim has also been amended to provide proper antecedent support for the ratios.

Withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

Application No. 10/539,061

Reply to Office Action of December 15, 2006

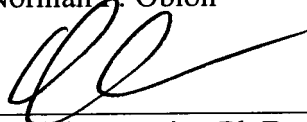
A Notice of Allowance for all pending claims is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, he is encouraged to contact Applicants' undersigned representative.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

Norman E. Oblon



Daniel J. Pereira, Ph.D.
Registration No. 45,518

Customer Number

22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000

Fax: (703) 413 -2220

(OSMMN 06/04)